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THE TIMORESE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE TIMORESE PRISONERS FRATERNITY

Mr.Chairman

The fact that by the first time we come to the beautiful land of the Pilipina to meet ourselves not as foreigners but as brothers and sisters is indeed a great happening because it means the opportunity to update our milenary relationship towards a joint path in Southeast Asian world for a strong future of Dignity and Progress.

I am here to present before this distinguished Forum of the Human Rights the situation of East Timor not under the perspective of the international militancy,not under the revolutionary principles of dangerous political and ideological philosophies but exclusively under the scope of love,peace,order,harmony and development to contribute to Southeast Asia grandeur wherein Pilipina has its important share .

I could not go any further without remembering the Christianization of the Pilipina People and the worldwide admiration for it after 500 years and the historically uncommensurable figure of Jose Rizal's last poem in jail the night before he was murdered leaving to his People not a message of hate but a hymn of love and sacrifice.

The case of East Timor is not merely the consequence of a sudden "decolonization process" commenced unilaterally by Portugal in 1974 and ended in 1975.It is a case of treason commited by the portuguese leftist revolutionaries whom seized the power of State to introduce in Southeast Asia a kind of Cuba's regime style to destabilize this area in syncrony with the conflit in Indochina.To prove this,East Timor even was not included in 1974 in the list of portuguese overseas colonial territories to be "descolonized" like Cape Vert,Guinea(Bissau),Sao Tome and Principe,Angola and Mozambique.Only in 1975,after the revolutionary conditions were consolidated on those african colonies to deliver the power into the hands of marxist-leninist minoritary groups the East Timor colonial territory was lonely included in a special revolutionary decree as a territory to be decolonized.

Dramatically the so-called "decolonization"of East Timor was started up with total unobservancy of international lawfull procedures foreseen in International Law and even under total "absentia" of UNO supervision or "follow up" which means an effective revolutionary conduct of portuguese responsibilities not only in relation to our People but also in relation to international order.

The result of the consequences caused by the portuguese revolutionarism was beyond the dramatism and political tolerance:East Timor was suddenly abandoned by the portuguese Administration in the moment a civil war was in progress precisely caused by the same Administration.

First by the side of the Fretilin party and after its defeat by the opposing parties UDT,KOTA,APODETI and TRABALHISTA,East Timor saw in three months the defeat of Fretilin and the recovery of the Anti-Communist Movimento,which has established a legal Government to replace the vaccum power left by portuguese Administration.
As the warfield winning factions the ACM or MAC Movimento Anti-Comunist had the right to call for international help to establish Peace and Order.Portuguese declared that they had no means to restaure such conditions,the International Community was concentrated in the war of Lebanon and Vietnam.As a consequence of the Rome Meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Indonesia,the Provisional Government of East Timor formed by UDT,KOTA,APODETI and TRABALHISTA parties,had then no other solution than to apply Indonesia for logistic and police support to re-establish in the territory conditions for the normal functioning of east timorese legal representative institutions like Government,Parliament,Armed Forces and Judicial Power.

Reborn from chaos,disorder,suffering,drama and unnecessary mutual killings there was necessary to replace the portuguese Administration. Slowly but firmly concentrated in preserve lives and rebuild destroyed properties,the Provisional Government and the Parliament managed to carry out elections according to our ancestral and milenary use and costume based in aboriginal consuetudinary law to referendum one of the following options:

a. Independence
b. Etat Associé with Portugal,Indonesia or even Australia
c. Etat Dependent from Portugal or Indonesia
d. Integration with Indonesia,as Special Province
e. Re-Integration with Portugal as Autonomous Region

Owing the People's correct interpretation of the past History against Colonialism and its sense of biological survival in alliance with bonds and branches of the same Ancestral Tree(the same which has formed Indonesia as a State in 1945) it was overwhelming voted by 98% the Integration in the Indonesian State.

Of course,the moment Fretilin supporters choose the mountains to resist against the Provisional Government(December 1975)there was in East Timor a second guerilla warfare which lasted till 17 July,the day of 1976 when East Timor was officially integrated in the Indonesian State.However,the weaponery and amunitions delivered by the portuguese Administration to the Fretilin party were well hidden in the interior areas so it was possible to "build up"another type of guerilla warfare this time not against the east timorese winning party but against the people supporting by majority Indonesia.

To outline a wave of mass murders and to cause excesses of violence which were now directed to the People not supporting Fretilin,the east timorese guerilla entered in an open confrontation with Indonesian Armed Forces,totally responsible for the security and order in the territory.

And while during 12 years,portuguese Government forgot its runaway from East Timor(1975-1987) and Indonesia concentrated in developing the territory from a era of the caves to an updated growing process,it came up in mass media the romantic figure of a "national fight for freedom" led by Fretilin,which is nothing else than a nostalgic return to the prevailing conditions aimed by the international revolutionarism of 1974,sheltered by the portuguese REvolution of April 25.

It is necessary to study and to investigate"in loco" the effective conditions of the post-departure situation criated by the portuguese sudden abandonment.Till today neither Portugal nor Indonesia have yet produced a thoroughfull reliable book which can put in full extension before History the drama of the east timorese facing two survival factors:their victimization in the name of Communism and their sudden abandonement merged in civil war to allow the build up of a Communist State in the heart of Southeast Asia;and,the role of Indonesia suddendly confronted with the necessity to attend thousands of refugees in a particular occasion of internal difficulties for which Indonesia was not prepared.And what is significant,the fact that Indonesia was militarily attacked by Fretilin when this party using portuguese weaponery also intended to push all refugees in the bordering areas inside the indonesian Timor.

We recognize that Indonesia have had some difficulties in fighting back the guerilla as the psychological process of Integration was moderate and only with the time and experience our People could in fact be able to establish the difference between the severe portuguese colonialist system and the gradual absorption of indonesian establishment which biologically shown no differences as the east timorese have an ancestral branch in the common milenary tree of the indonesian origin.

Till 1985 the guerilla warfare was effective but abuses and excesses commited by some units led to the entire disagregation of the unitary guerilla leadership,which included even the assassination of Commandant Kilik Waiga,the Chief of Major Staff,for gratuit reasons in a moment he was defenseless and sick.The time factor has worked to allow the east timorese to wish a local community of harmony first among the divided east timorese themselves and after with Indonesia.

Unfortunatelly,a plan was prepared in Portugal in 1991 to force a public demonstration of east timorese students in Dili,in the presence of international journalists,opposing in an open challenge before the indonesian authorities.This was the cause of the 12 November incident which caused a lot of innocent victims by means of an intolerable behaviour of some military individuals who were trialed later in a court

martial,after an enquiry on responsibilities ordered by the indonesian Chief of the Armed Forces while even the President of Indonesia himself have appointed a National Commission of Enquiry to reconstitute the incident and to take measures for that never again such cases could happen.

In fact,from 1991 till today the situation has changed almost 180 degrees.No more remarkable repression actions have happened,no more people is declared "vanished".The long lists published by Amnesty International have become to a very few names and the situation of some detainees is even better than in most world countries.
Because Indonesian authorities have understood that only dialogue under direct form with the east timorese leaderships is the key for the desired harmony and development,recently three happenings took place:

* The London Summit of Recconciliation among east timorese of good will pro and against Integration or pro and against Independence or other formula.
* A voyage of 23 east timorese living outside their homeland to East Timor to verify "in loco" the reality in the field.
* The visit to Portugal of 41 east timorese coming from East Timor to meet all east timorese living in Portugal and to discuss among themselves the best solution for East Timor having in account the facilities and efforts offered by indonesian capability.

This means that both east timorese factions,pro and against Integration are in this moment implementing the conditions to allow Portugal and Indonesia to seat and respect the will of the People.

There is of course some need to keep watching the consolidation of the question of the Human Rights and we will be doing so to report any possible abuses.But we shall not participate in the international manoeuvre consisting of taking the question of the Human Rights as a banner to exerce political oportunities to offend the Indonesian State or to provoke destabilization using East Timor as a "pivot".

All we need is time and understanding.Let us,as real east timorese, from all political options to construct our Harmony,our Peace and our Development.Just allow us to avoid more suffering for this troubled world and dont corrupt our hearts as sons of Asia.

date, May 31, 1994.

TISHR & TPF

PAULINO GAMA
PRESIDENT